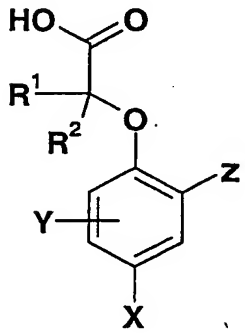
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(I)

in which:

X is C_{1-6}alkyl or OR^6;

Y is selected from hydrogen, halogen, CN, nitro, SO_2R^3, OR^4, SR^4, SOR^3, $SO_2NR^4R^5$, $CONR^4R^5$, NR^4R^5, $NR^6SO_2R^3$, $NR^6CO_2R^6$, NR^6COR^3, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl or C_{1-6}alkyl, the latter four groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, OR^6 and NR^6R^7, $S(O)_nR^6$ where n is 0, 1 or 2;

Z is aryl or a ring A, where A is a six membered heterocyclic aromatic ring containing one or more nitrogen atoms or may be a 6,6 or 6,5 fused bicycle containing one or more O, N, S atoms, the aryl or A rings all being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from from hydrogen, halogen, CN, OH, SH, nitro, COR^9, CO_2R^6, SO_2R^9, OR^9, SR^9, SOR^9, $SO_2NR^{10}R^{11}$, $CONR^{10}R^{11}$, $NR^{10}R^{11}$, $NHSO_2R^9$, $NR^9SO_2R^9$, $NR^6CO_2R^6$, $NHCOR^9$, NR^9COR^9, $NR^6CONR^4R^5$, $NR^6SO_2NR^4R^5$, aryl, heteroaryl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl or C_{1-6}alkyl, the latter four groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, OR^6, NR^6R^7, $S(O)_nR^6$ (where n is 0, 1 or 2), $CONR^6R^7$, NR^6COR^7, $SO_2NR^6R^7$ and $NR^6SO_2R^7$.

R^1 and R^2 independently represent a hydrogen atom, halogen, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl or a C_{1-6}alkyl group, the latter four groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, NR^6R^7, OR^6, $S(O)_nR^6$ (where n is 0, 1 or 2);

or

R^1 and R^2 together can form a 3-8 membered ring optionally containing one or more atoms selected from O, S, NR^6 and itself optionally substituted by one or more C_1-C_3 alkyl or halogen;

R^3 represents C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl or C_{1-6}alkyl which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, OR^6 and NR^6R^7, $S(O)_nR^6$ (where n = 0,1 or 2), $CONR^6R^7$, NR^6COR^7,$SO_2NR^6R^7$ and $NR^6SO_2R^7$;

R^4 and R^5 independently represent hydrogen, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl or C_{1-6}alkyl, the latter two groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, OR^6 and NR^6R^7, $S(O)_nR^6$ (where n = 0,1 or 2), $CONR^6R^7$, NR^6COR^7,$SO_2NR^6R^7$ and $NR^6SO_2R^7$;

or

R^4 and R^5 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached can form a 3-8 membered saturated heterocylic ring optionally containing one or more atoms selected from O, $S(O)_n$ (where n = 0,1 or 2), NR^8, and itself optionally substituted by halogen or C_1-$_3$ alkyl;

R^6 and R^7 independently represents a hydrogen atom or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R^8 is hydrogen, C_1-$_4$ alkyl, -COC_1-C_4 alkyl, CO_2C_1-C_4alkyl or $CONR^6C_1$-C_4alkyl;

R^9 represents aryl, heteroaryl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl or C_{1-6}alkyl, the latter two groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl OR^6 and NR^6R^7, $S(O)_nR^6$ (where n = 0, 1 or 2), $CONR^6R^7$, NR^6COR^7, $SO_2NR^6R^7$ and $NR^6SO_2R^7$;

R^{10} and R^{11} independently represent aryl or heteroaryl, hydrogen, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl or C_{1-6}alkyl, the latter two groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, OR^6 and NR^6R^7, $S(O)_nR^6$ (where n = 0, 1 or 2), $CONR^6R^7$, NR^6COR^7, $SO_2NR^6R^7$ and $NR^6SO_2R^7$;

or

R^{10} and R^{11} together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached can form a 3-8 membered saturated heterocylic ring optionally containing one or more atoms selected from O, $S(O)_n$ (where n = 0, 1 or 2), NR^8, and itself optionally substituted by halogen or C_1-C_3 alkyl.

2. A compound according to claim 1 in which R^1 and R^2 independently represent a hydrogen atom, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl or a C_{1-6}alkyl group, the latter four groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, NR^6R^7, OR^6, $S(O)_nR^6$ (where n is 0, 1 or 2) or R^1 and R^2 together can form a 3-8 membered ring optionally containing one or more atoms selected from O, S, NR^6 and itself optionally substituted by one or more C_1-C_3 alkyl or halogen;

3. A compound according to claim 1 or 2 in which X is C_{1-4}alkyl or C_{1-4}alkoxy.

4. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3 in which Y is hydrogen.

5. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 in which Z is phenyl or optionally substituted as defined in claim 1.

6. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 in which Z is phenyl or optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, C_{1-3}alkyl, cyano and SO_2R^9.

7. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 in which R^1 and R^2 are both hydrogen or one is hydrogen and the other is C_{1-3} alkyl.

8. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 selected from:
[(5-Methylbiphenyl-2-yl)oxy]acetic acid,
{[5-Ethyl-4'-(methylsulfonyl)biphenyl-2-yl]oxy}acetic acid
{[4'-(Ethylsulfonyl)-5-methoxybiphenyl-2-yl]oxy}acetic acid
[[4-Chloro-4'-(ethylsulfonyl)-2',5-dimethyl[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl]oxy]-acetic acid
[[4'-(Ethylsulfonyl)-2',5-dimethyl[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl]oxy]-acetic acid
2-[[3'-Cyano-5-methyl[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl]oxy]-(2S)-propanoic acid
2-[[2'-Fluoro-5'-cyano-5-methyl[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl]oxy]-(2S)-propanoic acid
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

9. A compound of formula (I) according to any one of claims 1 to 8 for use in therapy.

10. A method of treating a disease mediated by prostaglandin D2, which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt as defined in claims 1 to 8.

11. A method of treating a respiratory disease, such as asthma and rhinitis, in a patient suffering from, or at risk of, said disease, which comprises administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, as defined in claims 1 to 8.